

Committee on Ways and Means

H.R. 6408, Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006

Report On “Never Events”

- The National Quality Forum (NQF), a non-profit membership organization created to develop and implement national standards for health care quality measurement and reporting, has endorsed a list of 28 adverse events that are serious, preventable, and of concern to both the public and health care providers.
- The NQF list reflects clinical consensus and includes events that should never occur, such as surgery on the wrong body part and surgery on the wrong patient. There is no dispute that these “services” should never be provided to beneficiaries, or anyone else.
- The new report would ask the Office of the Inspector General to undertake a study of the payments made by the Medicare program and beneficiaries for the provision of these services. In addition, the report will review the administrative processes of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in relationship to denying payment or recovering money for the costs of these services. The report also asks the Secretary to report on a process for disclosure of such events.